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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1 Bacteriological Warfare

1. No consideration has so far been given in the Czechoslovak Army to the use of bacteriological weapons. If these were mentioned at all, it was always in connection with propaganda accusing the Western Powers of preparations for bacteriological warfare. No consideration was even given to protective measures [REDACTED]

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Antiaircraft Defense

2. [REDACTED] Antiaircraft defense against low flying aircraft was conducted by fire of heavy caliber machine guns¹, HMGs, LMGs, and salvos from small arms. The effective range of large caliber machine guns was 1,200m., of LMGs 500 m., of rifles 400 m., and of SMGs 200 m. One third of rifle companies was detailed for AA defense during an action. These detachments had to be ready for AA defense in case of air alert. The smallest unit which was considered to be able to fire effectively against aircraft was one rifle squad or a group of three heavy caliber machine guns or HMGs.

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Antitank Defense

3. Up to December 1951 there was no change in tank warfare doctrine to protect tanks against new kinds of antitank shells.
4. [REDACTED] the standard infantry antitank weapons in use in the Czechoslovak Army are a 76 mm. rifle gun of Soviet origin and a new rocket launcher of Czech origin. There was also a new Czech bazooka-type weapon under way. The 45 mm. AT gun of Soviet origin was being gradually discarded.

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Teaching of Military Engineering at the Infantry Institute in Lipnik nad Bečvou

5. For military engineering, 30 hours of training per school year were scheduled in the curriculum of the Infantry Institute. The majority of this time was devoted to practical training. The following facilities were available for training purposes: pieces of lumber, planks and boards, axes, picks, shovels, hand saws, cord cables, steel cables, meshed wire, nails, cramps, dummy mines, rubber boats, etc., one engineering hall with benches for modelling engineering works, samples of various kinds of mines, fuses, mine detectors, and schematic examples of engineering problems, etc.
6. The training of the students consisted mainly of field engineering work which does not require specialized equipment and which infantry men have to perform without the help of engineers, such as digging trenches, emplacements, light shelters, construction of wire entanglements, field camouflage, etc. Engineering work which required expert knowledge and special equipment, such as the laying of mine fields, work with various explosives, or building of concrete shelters, was presented to the students in lectures for information only. The instructors and staff officers at the Institute had to solve engineering problems within tactical problems which they encountered in the course of their refresher schooling.

Lecturer on Chemical Warfare

7. Lt. Col. NOVOTNY (fnu), lecturer on chemical warfare at the Infantry Institute, was [redacted] working at the Military College in Prague, where he lectured on the use of chemical warfare weapons. After February 1948 he became a candidate of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, but retained his anti-Communist convictions. [redacted]

Cadre Sections

8. [redacted] the cadre section at the Infantry Institute [redacted] had a field grade officer as chief, three junior officers, and one career noncommissioned officer. It can be presumed that cadre sections of normal units would have less personnel because they would not have many problems to deal with. The cadre section at the Institute was responsible for the political evaluation of the many hundred students who attended the school.
9. Cadre section personnel was chosen and appointed by the Head Cadre Department at the Ministry of National Defense. The authority of the cadre section did not exceed the authority of the commanding officer. The recommendations and decisions of the cadre section had to be approved by the commanding officer.

Soviet Military Advisers

10. Soviet military advisers reported to the Soviet military mission in Prague. The Soviet adviser to the Infantry Institute very often left for consultations, which usually lasted for two or three days.
11. The Soviet military advisers had no direct authority over the commanders of units to which they were attached, but in practice commanding officers were more than eager to carry out the advisers' suggestions so as not to create the impression of an anti-Soviet attitude.

Release of Imprisoned Army Officers

12. [redacted] some 300 officers were allegedly released from prison [redacted]

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Comment: may be referring to a light antiaircraft
gun such as the Soviet 37-mm.

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